Vol. III. Numb. 49.

THE OBSERVATOR.

rks on a Scandalous Libel, call'd the Diſſenter. *Of a* Jacobite *Conventicle near St.* James's

From **Wednesday** September the 6th, to **Saturday** September the 9th, 1704.

y-m. MAſter *Obſervator*, not one Word of News; the Wind keeps us Barren of that modity; and if any News, good or bad, ſhou'd between this and *Saturday*, 'tis impoſſible ou to have it time enough for the Advan- of the Publick; and therefore, Pray Sir, us your Opinion of the Poem I brought you time ſince, call'd the *Diſſenter*.

bſ. I muſt firſt know whether *Robin Hog*, or of the Queens Meſſengers, are in Queſt of Libel; for I alway's Pay that Deference due y Superiours, as not to mention any Book is under the Cogniſance of the Government. *Exorbitant Grant* Men, the *Iriſh* Prieſt *Leſly*, ſeveral others that have Written againſt the *iſh* Conſtitution, the Liberties of *England*, Revolution, the Succeſſion of the Houſe of *nover*, and the Queens Right to the Crown, never been the Subjects of my Pen, had they under the Cenſure of the Miniſtry or Par- ent.

ountry-m. You are ſafe enough: I don't hear Word of the *Hogs* ſearching after this Libel. know he has made it his Buſineſs to ſcreen Fellows. But now you mention the *Iriſh* ſt *Leſly*, I muſt acquaint you, that ſince the e of *Marlborough* ſpoil'd the Third Part of Libel *Caſſandra*, with a Fighting Story, he betaken himſelf to the Writing of Penny and Penny Papers; he's turn'd Limner too, and his Dear Dad, the Devil, to Draw the Picture he *Obſervator*. The Poor Rogue has not one ny of Money for Copy, only for every Pa- one Quart of *Buda* Wine, Paid him by the porter. ——— But now, Sir, to the Poem cal- the *Diſſenter*. If you pleaſe I'll Read you e Paragraphs I have marked in the Preface.

bſ. Prithee do.

Country-m. It begins thus. *It is no ſmall Hap- eſs to* England, *at this Juncture, that God of his nipotence is ſufficient, without Humane Aid, to end his Peculiar Church from the violent Efforts her Malicious Enemies; for had her Safety in ſe times depended upon the Integrity of her* Spi- ual Governours, *it is very probable they would e ſerv'd her as they did their late* Unfortunate nce (*that is*) *deſerted her in the time of Danger, d have ſuffer'd her to have been expos'd to the In- ent Uſage of a* Fanatick Multitude: Martyr- m, *among the* Eccleſiaſtical Heroes *of this Age, is te out of Faſhion*, &c. Pray, Sir, who is the Un- tunate Prince this Fellow ſpeaks of?

Obſ. The late King *James*; and by ſome of Spiritual Governours, he means the Preſent ſhops. And now let the World ſee, how Im- dently and Maliciouſly this Libeller Aſperſes beſt Set of Biſhops we have had ſince the Re- mation: Did theſe Biſhops Deſert the Unfor- tunate Prince he mentions? Surely no, they were never Entruſted by him: Did the Fellows of *Maudlin* Colledge Deſert him becauſe they would not quit their Free-hold, to be turned into a Seminary of *Popelings*? Yes, by all means, becauſe they would not quit their *Property*, therefore they Deſerted King *James*; very good Reaſoning, King *James* was bound to maintain them in their Rights and Properties, he was bound by Solemn Oaths and Covenants to maintain the Religion and Law of *England*, but he did not; he broke over the Fences of our Law, and the Combination of *High-Flyers* and *Papiſts*, from their Pedeſtal of *Paſſive-Obedience* and *Non-Reſiſtance*, mounted him into the Saddle of *Arbitrary Power*, and when he rode *Tantivy* to *Rome*, did he deſert his People, or his People him?

Country-m. When that Unfortunate Prince, Ruin'd by *High-Flying* Councils, made his Elopement to *France*, I wiſh all the *Jacobites* and *High-Flyers* had gone along with him, they would have been moſt of 'em knock'd on the Head by this Time.

Obſ. No, no, Honeſt *Country-man*, thoſe People are not for Fighting; I wiſh we could once but catch them on that Lock; they were the true Deſerters, they left King *James* in the Lurch, as their Predeceſſors, the *Cavaliers*, did King *Charles* I. who, after they had brought him into a War, left him in the Lurch, and ſuffer'd him to be Murder'd at his own Palace Gate. Let this, or any of the *Jacobite* Scriblers prove, that any of our preſent Biſhops, ſo much Libelled at this Time, ever Preach'd the Doctrines of *Paſſive Obedience* and *Non-Reſiſtance*, Doctrines ſo Ruinous to Crown'd Heads, or that they ever put a King or Queen into a Running Poſture.

But the prettieſt Jeſt of all is, the *High Church* of *England* is Gods peculiar Church, and Conſequently the *High-Flyers* are Gods peculiar People. Precious Saints, that have neither Common *Morality* or *Honeſty*, whoſe Buſineſs has been to Embaraſs the Affairs of the beſt of Governments, that ſide with *Papiſts* againſt *Proteſtants*, that are againſt the *Proteſtant Succeſſion* to the Crown, and for the Prince at St. *Germains*, they would Embroil the Nation in Blood, that rejoice at the Succeſſes of our Enemies, and Pine themſelves at our Victories, and the declining Condition of the *French* King, who is indeed the Head of the *High Church* of *England*. Are theſe Gods peculiar People? The 20 Commiſſioners of the *Blood-Office*, are of this Number, they are Gods peculiar People too, they may Merit Places by Cutting of Throats, but 'twill be an odd ſort of Heaven, they'll get by that means.

Country-m. Heaven! You make me Laugh, theſe Fellows never think of Heaven; they fly to the Clouds in pretended Raptures of Religion and Loyalty,

Loyalty only for the Sake of Private Intereſt, as I remember I have Read ſome where ſome Old Verſes to that purpoſe.

Kites *and* Buzzards *mount the Sky,*
As if they to Heaven would fly,
Whilſt they, alas! Do Soar *ſo* High,
Only the better to Eſpy
Where the Prey on Earth doth lye.
Hovering over it, to light,
Swop, have at it, *ſays the* Kite.

But Maſter, methinks it is next kin to Blaſphemy, for this Poetaſter to ſay, that the *High-Church* of *England* is Gods peculiar *Church*; and that the *High-Flyers* are Gods peculiar People; the Blaſphemous Fellows at the *Play-Houſe* are of that *Church*, the Bawdy Poets, the Ballad-Singers, the Pick-Pockets, and all the Children of *Mercury* are of that Sortment. The *Rope-Dancers* are *High-Flyers*, the *Merry-Andrews*, and all the *Rake-Hells* at *Bartholomew-Fair* are *High-Church* every one of 'em; the *Nonjuring Parſons*, the *Aſſaſſinators*, however dignify'd or diſtinguiſh'd, are all Pretenders to *High-Church*, and to Print theſe People *the Peculiar* of God Almighty, is, I think, bordering upon Blaſphemy.

Obſ. 'Tis no matter for that; there's certainly a Charm in Railing againſt the Lords, the Biſhops, I never found one of theſe Men Proſecuted. And others of that Noble and Auguſt Body, the Houſe of Peers, who have ſav'd our Nation from Ruin, and are the moſt Noble Patriots that ever one Age yet produc'd, are herein Vilely Scandaliz'd. Nay, is not every Honeſt Man in *England*, either Peer or Commoner, abominably Scandalized, when ſuch as were for the Revolution, the Foundation of this Government, and the Succeſſion of the Houſe of *Hannover*, are termed a *Fanatick Multitude*. As I told you once before, We Conquer in vain Abroad, if theſe Men are ſuffer'd to be ſo inſolent at home, and the Miniſtry ſhall Proſecute ſuch as Write againſt 'em. I am ſure the particular Intereſt of *England*, ought to be our particular Care.

Country-m. I proteſt, Maſter *Obſervator*, theſe Fellows are very Rampant, you have told me of their Clubs and Coventicles in the Country, but I find 'em as thick as Hops in the City and at *Weſtminſter*, nay, juſt at the Gate of the Royal Palace.

I went t'other Day to the *Pall-mall*, to take ſome Money for *Hay* that I had Sold, and going thro' the Palace at St. *James*'s, I heard a parcel of honeſt *Chairmen*, (God bleſs the Ordinary ſort of People) a hooting at ſome People that paſs'd along, and asking them if they had not been a Praying for *Perkin*: I enquired the meaning of it, and they told me, that in the *Street* facing the Court, there was a *Perkinite Conventicle* kept every day in the Week. Could you believe this?

Obſ. Yes, I know it to be true; this *Conventicle* was kept in that place ſometime before Her Majeſties Happy Acceſſion to the Throne, and ſtill continues, the Parſon that keeps the *Conventicle*, was ſometime Chaplain to the Lord *Griffin*.

Country-m. But, why are they not Proſecuted?

Obſ. Why was not the *Exorbitant Grant Man*, and others Proſecuted?

Country-m. I can't unriddle it. But they told me, they had made Complaint to a Juſtice of Peace, who told them, if they could produce Evidence that the People Aſſembled in that did Pray for King *James* the 3d, he would them in the Proſecuting of them.

Obſ. The Juſtice was in the right of it. *Obſervator* may be Bound over to Term, wi any Evidence againſt him taken upon Oath as the Law of *England* never dyes, I would have any Juſtice of Peace act after that ma for he may hear of it Seven Years after. know Captain *Weakes* in *Southwark*, who is ry honeſt Gentleman, of known Affection to Majeſty and Government, had his Houſe, long ſince, Ranſack'd from top to bottom b Queens Meſſengers for Treaſonable Papers, was Repreſented in his Neighbourhood as a *Traytor*, and carried to *White-Hall*; and he return'd he was as Wiſe as when he went knows not his Crime, nor who was Evi againſt him; but you don't hear any ſuch of thoſe People you mention.

Country-m. Well, well, 'twill be their turn time or other. Let us Drink one Glaſs to Queen and Old *England*, and depart in Pea

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